



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



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SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
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22nd September 2022

Deputy Johnny Guirke,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ Ref: 42139/22

**** To ask the Minister for Health the amount recovered through the use of debt collectors and or debt collection agencies in respect of the collection of fees and charges for inpatient and day services on patients attending hospitals managed by South/South West Hospital Group in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter****

- Deputy Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please note the following table outlines the amounts recovered through debt collection/debt collection agencies in relation to fees/charges for both in-patient and day services for patients attending hospitals in the South/South West Hospital (SSWHG) from 2015 to 2021.

Amount Recovered Through Debt Collection									
HOSPITAL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL	
Mallow General Hospital	€4,052	€6,828	€2,359	€7,184	€1,030	€2,759	€7,149	€31,360	
Mallow General Hospital Local Injuries Unit	-	-	-	€6,800	€250	€48,480	€17,655	€73,185	
Cork University Hospital	€203,802	€203,819	€195,576	€258,338	€241,776	€186,110	€159,121	€1,448,542	
Cork University Maternity Hospital	€26,877	€34,944	€21,885	€18,361	€24,313	€26,860	€13,646	€166,886	
South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital	€28,453	-	€20,375	-	€36,139	€99,943	€1,580	€186,490	
Mercy University Hospital	€32,736	€37,710	€59,453	€83,276	€93,455	€66,604	€52,492	€425,726	
University Hospital Kerry	-	-	€13,830	€13,553	€21,241	€61,591	€175,391	€285,605	
University Hospital Waterford	€175,802	€190,583	€174,638	€204,216	€246,909	€161,667	€175,032	€1,328,848	
Tipperary University Hospital	€65,630	€77,608	€55,445	€58,020	€90,477	€50,278	€35,314	€432,771	
Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital	€1,847	€2,092	€2,524	€1,187	€3,237	€3,490	€1,520	€15,897	

Mallow General Hospital have advised that pre 2018, debt collection for Mallow General Hospital Local Injuries Unit was an internal function within the hospital and debt collection agencies were not used.

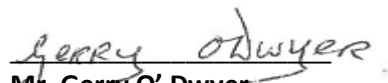
South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital were unable to provide data for 2016 and 2018 as debt collection was only being used sporadically. Regular engagement with debt collection agencies commenced from 2019 onwards.

University Hospital Kerry were unable to provide data for 2015 and 2016 as they changed to a new system in 2016.

Of note, Bantry General Hospital which also comes under the remit of the SSWHG does not procure Debt Collection Agency services at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer
CEO,
South/South West Hospital Group

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